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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/868,272 | 02/08/2002 | Menachem Givon | 248/087 | 8479 |

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EXAMINER

BELL, BRUCE F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/868,272

Applicant(s)

GIVON, MENACHEM

Examiner

Bruce F. Bell

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/05/2001.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pedicini (5362577).

Pedicini disclose a casing for housing an electrochemical cell having a gas exit hole that allows escape of gases but prevents escape of electrolyte. The gas exit hole of the invention is a gas permeable hydrophobic membrane attached to the interior surface of the case. See col. 3, lines 37-62. The gas exit hole is preferably located at the geometric center of a recess in the casing. See col. 4, lines 20-22. The venting system of the case is hermetically sealed and is inclusive of the hermetic seal around the cathode lead, where a plastic material is bonded through the openings in the casing around the leads of the cathode. See col. 4, lines 62-68. The gas permeable hydrophobic membrane 23 extends along the interior of the cell case 12 between the cathode 22 and the openings 20 and along the sidewall 21 to prevent leakage of the electrolyte and/or moisture from exiting the cell 14. See col. 6, lines 9-37. The vent system 10 has a cell lid 24 having a small gas exit hole 16, recess 36 within the cell case, a gas permeable hydrophobic membrane 40, porous gas diffuser and gas permeable hydrophobic

membrane 44. The recess is circular shape and has a gas diffuser is placed in the recess so that the gas exit hole is covered. The membranes are placed then cover the exit hole and are welded in place by ultrasonic techniques. See col. 6, lines 50-67. Pedicini disclose that the vent system has a two fold purpose, to exhaust excess gas from the cell case and to maintain the hermetic seal of the case so that contaminants do not enter the cell, and to retain the electrolyte within the cell during the exhaustion of gas. See col. 7, lines 29-34. The patent further discloses that although it is desirable to vent the hydrogen gas, it is undesirable to vent any water vapor as that aids in maintaining the humidity with in the cell casing. See col. 7, lines 46-50.

The prior art of Pedicini anticipates the applicants' instant invention as set forth by the teachings shown above. The air permeable sticker as set forth in one of the dependent limitations is anticipated by way of the gas permeable hydrophobic membrane used in the vent system as set forth in the Pedicini patent.

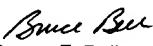
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Bruce F. Bell whose telephone number is 571-272-1296. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 6:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski can be reached on 571 272-1302. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 1746

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

BFB
June 14, 2004


Bruce F. Bell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1746